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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I know, Sir, the distance between Cape Camorin and Nagapattinam, if the road is to be laid ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I do not have that information with me now, Sir.

Tuticorin-Tiruchendur highways

a * 179 Q.—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the bridge near Manajalneer Kail village in Tirunelveli district on the Tuticorin-Tiruchendur highways is in a damaged condition; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to repair it immediately ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reconstruction of the bridge has been sanctioned and the work will be taken up soon.

Metric system of weights

a * 180 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN, SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : } Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the introduction of metric system of weights and measures has resulted in reduction of quality or increase in prices of goods sold to consumers by the retail dealers; and

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) & (b) In the initial stages of compulsory enforcement of metric weights in the whole State with effect from 1st April 1962 there were reports in the press to the effect that unscrupulous elements were tending to take advantage of the situation by demanding prices disproportionate to quantities as quoted in metric weights. Investigations revealed that in some cases these reports were either incorrect or exaggerated. However, effective steps were taken to give wide publicity to the metric equivalents of the old weights and measures by distribution of conversion tables both for units and for prices to the traders and the public. This has had the desired effect of checking any anti-social tendencies for taking undue advantage of the change-over to the metric system.

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a Postponed question from the list of questions for 1st August 1962.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Do the Government think that they have given sufficient publicity to the layman about this so that he may not get himself entangled in this affair ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: We are continuously trying to educate the people in this system of weights.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Sir, is it not a fact that Government always give publicity to certain items like this by pasting big posters on the wall of post offices ? Have they done so in this case?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: All the necessary publications have been made.

Circuit House at Tuticorin

a* 181 Q.—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to empower the Revenue Divisional Officer to allot accommodation in the Circuit House at Tuticorin?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: No, Sir.

Madras-Andhra Boatmen's Association

a* 182 Q.—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by the Government from the Madras-Andhra Boatmen's Association; and

(b) if so, what it is and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: (a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the "Madras and Andhra State Boat Workers' Union". If so, the answer is 'Yes'.

(b) The Union has requested cancellation of Government orders issued in 1952 which provides for collection of demurrage charges from the Boatmen for goods not removed from the wharf in time. The Government have carefully examined the request of the Union but consider that no action is called for on the request.

Aerodrome

a *183 Q.—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to recommend to the Central Government to erect an aerodrome between Tuticorin and Tirunelveli ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: No, Sir.

a Postponed question from the list of questions for 1st August 1962.